Borough of Aldeburgh

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1964

C. H. IMRIE,
T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Late Hon. Surgeon to H.M.
The Queen.

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The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Aldeburgh.

Madam Mayor,

Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my annual report for the year 1964 dealing with the general health of the population of the Borough and with such matters as may have a bearing on the health of the community.

I would like to thank the Council and Officers for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. IMRIE

Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Late Hon. Surgeon to H. M. The Queen.

Public Health Inspector

W. Hodgson, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., (Until July, 1964).
H. Young, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., (From August, 1964).

Vital Statistics

Population

According to the figures published by the Registrar General the population of Aldeburgh at Mid 1964 was 2,970 persons. This figure, rather surprisingly, is exactly the same as the figure for the previous year and rather underlines the opinion which I advanced in former reports, that the growth of the population has reached a static period.

The composition of the population of Aldeburgh reveals a higher proportion of the elderly than in an average for the Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts of the County. In these the proportion of people aged, males over 65 and females over 60, is 18 per 1,000 which in Aldeburgh the figure is 22.5 per 1,000.

Births

The total number of Live Births was 36 which is rather fewer than in 1963. While of Still Births only one case was recorded.

Deaths

The number of deaths during the year was 59, including one infantile death. The total for the previous year was 45.

These figures produce a Birth Rate which is slightly less than, and a Death Rate which is rather greater than the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

The Table of Deaths by Causes will show that as regards causation the pattern is much the same as in previous years. The numbers involved are rather too small for any but the most general conclusions to be formed. It can however, be seen that the diseases associated with advancing age play a major part. It will also be seen that there was a small increase in deaths due to violence including accidents. This is a cause which I feel might often be avoided with care and forethought.

Notifiable Diseases

During the year under review the incidence of notifiable disease was considerably higher than in the previous year. This increase was due to measles during the second half of the year. Beginning in July the outbreak reached a peak in October and terminated rather abruptly in November. Measles is normally an infection associated with the Spring and the change of season is unusual. The age distribution of the cases however, conform to the familiar pattern, the maximum incidence falling on the younger school children, while an appreciable number of their younger pre-school sisters and brothers also suffered.

With regard to measles, work on a form of immunisation is going on and it is anticipated that we shall soon be able to prevent these outbreaks which from time to time play havoc with schooling.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register did not alter during the year.

There were no notifications relating to the more serious infections such as Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria or Food Poisoning during the year.

While this area enjoys some measure of freedom from serious infections, the position abroad is not always the same. Illness contracted when holidaying abroad can result in a ruined holiday and a very considerable expense. In my view, two simple steps can go far towards help in this respect. Firstly all potential travellers should insure against illness and medical expenses, secondly they should ask their medical advisors for advice on immunisation appropriate to the area to be visited.

The County Council arrangements for immunisation against certain notifiable diseases, mainly among infants resulted as follows.

Smallpox	Primary Vaccinations	30
	Revaccinations	7
Tetanus alone		2
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough		48
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough Boosters		55

Housing

At the end of the year the number of council houses in Aldeburgh which were in occupation was 140. These houses are of modern design and enjoy normal amenities.

Although the number of council houses remained static during the year there was an increase in accommodation due to private building.

There are no areas in Aldeburgh which could be designated as slums, but there are a number of houses in various areas of the town which are old, badly sited and lacking in modern amenities. These must be kept under review and where possible should be improved.

Overcrowding is not a common feature in Aldeburgh, although there are isolated cases where at certain seasons the limits are strained.

Refuse and Sewage

Refuse and Sewage disposal have for some years been a problem. With regard to the former, the Council have acquired a refuse pulverising machine which is intended to deal with the major part of the dry refuse. Refuse processed by the machine should be reduced very considerably in volume and the problem of disposal simplified. Assembly of this machine had not been completed by the end of the year.

Plans for an up to date sewage disposal plant have been discussed at great length. The existing disposal system can scarcely merit the name as it discharges the sewage into the River Alde without any effective treatment. As plans for a scheme are still under discussion, I will confine my remarks to hoping that the delay in arriving at a decision will be kept to a minimum.

Amenities

From time to time complaints are received about the state of the beaches. Oil and tar are occasionally found and the fouling of the shingle by dogs is not unusual. These are matters which, while perhaps not serious, do detract from the amenities.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough ..... 2,679 acres.

Rateable Value £111,226

Product of 1d. Rate ..... £443. 10s. 0d.

VITAL STATISTICS
Summary Covering Five Years

	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Population	2,970	2,970	2,920	2,900	3,030
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	13.2 (36)	13.8 (41)	16.1 (47)	18.9 (55)	14.4 (43)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	-	-	-	0.3 (1)	0.7 (2)
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	19.8 (59)	15.2 (45)	18.5 (54)	16.5 (48)	18.1 (55)
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births	27.7 (1)	-	-	-	69.8 (3)

Figures in brackets are the actual number of relevant births and deaths.

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1.	BIRTHS			
	Legitamate	13	19	32
	Illegitamate	1	3	4
2.	STILL BIRTHS			
	Legitamate	-	-	-
	Illegitamate	1	-	1
3.	ALL DEATHS	20	39	59
4.	INFANTILE DEATHS	1	-	1
5.	DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH CHILDBIRTH	-	-	-

COMPARABILITY

For the purpose of statistical comparison with other districts of difference sizes and composition, the Registrar General supplies a factor which when applied to our Birth and Death Rates gives the following results:-

Birth Rate	Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	14.52
	England & Wales per 1,000 population ...	18.4
Death Rate	Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	12.9
	England & Wales per 1,000 population	11.3

DEATHS BY CAUSES	1962	1963	1964		
			Male	Female	Total
1. to 9. Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	1	1	1	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	1	1	1	-	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	1	2	-	3	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	-	-	-
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	4	2	2	4
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	1	-	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	12	7	2	6	8
18. Coronary Diseases, Angina	15	13	5	9	14
19. & 20. Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	-	1	6	7
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	4	4	1	4	5
22. Influenza	-	-	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	3	2	1	3	4
24. Bronchitis	2	1	3	-	3
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	-	-	-
27. Gastritis Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	1	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	-	-	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	2	5	-	3	3
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1	1	-	1
34. All other Accidents	3	1	1	1	2
35. Suicide	-	-	-	1	1
36. Homicide and actions of war	-	-	-	-	-
	54	45	20	39	59

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES Monthly Incidence

	MEASLES	SCARLET FEVER	TUBERCULOSIS	ACUTE PRIMARY PNEUMONIA	
JANUARY	-	-	-	-	
FEBRUARY	-	-	-	-	
MARCH	-	-	-	-	
APRIL	2	-	-	-	
MAY	-	-	-	-	
JUNE	-	-	-	-	
JULY	1	-	-	-	
AUGUST	1	-	-	-	
SEPTEMBER	16	-	-	-	
OCTOBER	55	-	-	-	
NOVEMBER	23	1	-	-	
DECEMBER	-	1	-	-	Total
1964	98	2	-	-	100

Age Distribution

	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	Over 50	Total
Measles		11	18	65	4						98
Acute Primary Pneumonia											
Scarlet Fever				2							2
Tuberculosis											

TUBERCULOSIS

	Males		Females		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on Register at 1st January, 1964.	2	-	4	3	9
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time.	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases restored to Register after being removed	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by notification	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed from Register during year	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases remaining on Register at 31st December, 1964.	2	-	4	3	9

HOUSING

Statistics

No. of new Council Houses completed during the year	Nil
No. of Council Houses occupied at 31.12.64	140
No. of Private Houses completed during the year	21
Total No. units of accommodation with the Borough	1,254
No. of houses inspected	6
No. unsatisfactory	2
No. rendered fit by informal action	2
Abatement Notices served	Nil
No. of Demolition Orders secured	Nil
No. of dwellings included in Clearance Orders	Nil
No. of dwellings demolished	Nil
No. of Improvement Grants - Discretionary	8
No. of Improvement Grants - Standard	6

WATER SUPPLY

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORTS

		Probable numbers 100ml.	
Date	SOURCE	Coliform bacilli	Bact.coli(type 1)
6. 3. 64	No.1 Sump, Aldeburgh Waterworks	0	
6. 3. 64	18 Fairfield Road	0	0
1. 5. 64	No.1 Sump, Aldeburgh Waterworks	0	
1. 5. 64	18 Fairfield Road	0	
20. 6. 64	No.1 Sump, Aldeburgh Waterworks	0	
20. 6. 64	18 Fairfield Road	0	
19. 8. 64	Craig Royston, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh	0	
7.11. 64	Stand Pipe, Fort Green, Aldeburgh	0	
7.11. 64	Craig Royston, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh	0	

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 TO 1959.
Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	10	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	19	28	-	-
	34	43	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)					
Totals	3	3	-	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

Section 47 - No action required.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Premises where treatments were carried out

Dwellinghouses	-	92
Other Premises	-	15

FOOD PREMISES.

Number of Food Premises by type of business

Grocers	12	Ice Cream	12
Dairies	2	Butchers	3
Licensed Premises	17	Fried and Wet Fish	3
Bakers	2	Greengrocers	5
Sweets other than grocers	3	Cafés	3

Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream Dealers	12	Sausage Manufacturers	3

No. of Inspections of Registered Premises --	8
No. found unsatisfactory	2
No. rendered satisfactory	2